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Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program

AQS National Meeting May 2004

Clearwater, Florida





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Environmental Information Exchange Network

- An Internet- and standards-based information systems network among EPA and its partners.
- Purpose:
 - Enhance electronic reporting capabilities
 - Reduce information collection/reporting burdens
 - Better integrate data from different sources
 - Provide secure, real-time access to environmental data
 - Improve data quality



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Exchange Network Grant Program

- Designed to help States, Territories, & Federally Recognized Tribes participate in the Exchange Network
- Funding supports
 - Enhancing basic information management capabilities
 - Developing Exchange Network nodes
 - Developing Exchange Network data flows
 - Implementing collaborative, innovative uses of the Exchange Network
- State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Funding:
 - FY 2002: \$25M
 - FY 2003: \$19.9M
 - FY 2004: \$20M



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FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program

- Total: \$20M
- Emphasis:
 - Exchange Network node development
 - Data flow development
 - Air Quality System (AQS)
 - Facility Registry System (FRS)
 - National Emissions Inventory (NEI)
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo)
 - Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)
 - Toxics Release Inventory System (TRIS)
 - Collaborative, innovative projects that demonstrate the value of the Exchange Network





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FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program

Grant Categories

- **Readiness Grants**
 - *Purpose:* to develop basic IM/IT capabilities to participate in the Exchange Network
 - *Funding:* up to \$75K for Tribes; up to \$150K for States/Territories
- **Implementation Grants**
 - *Purpose:* to develop Exchange Network connections, nodes, and data flows
 - *Funding:* up to \$150K for Tribes; up to \$300K for States/Territories
- **Challenge Grants**
 - *Purpose:* to pursue collaborative, innovative projects that demonstrate the value of the Exchange Network
 - *Funding:* up to \$300K for Tribes; up to \$750K for States/Territories



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FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program Pre-Proposals Receiving a Favorable Review*

- **Tribes**
 - *Readiness*: 9 for a total of \$655,000
 - *Implementation*: 8 for a total of \$1,093,099
 - *Challenge*: 3 for a total of \$866,771
 - *Total Tribal*: 20 for a total of \$2,614,870
- **States/Territories**
 - *Readiness*: 6 for a total of \$840,900
 - *Implementation*: 31 for a total of \$8,839,356
 - *Challenge*: 11 for a total of \$7,106,271
 - *Total State/Territory*: 48 for a total of \$16,786,527
- **Total**: 68 for a total of \$19,401,397

* Applicants receiving a favorable review will be asked to submit final applications.



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FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program Pre-Proposals Receiving a Favorable Review

- The pre-proposals address several Administration priorities:
 - **Technology:** using advanced technologies to enhance the reporting and exchange of environmental information
 - **Collaboration:** working with other States/Territories/Tribes to pursue innovative uses of the Exchange Network
 - **Results:** pursuing specific Exchange Node and data flow development activities that will advance the electronic exchange of environmental data



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FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program Pre-Proposals Receiving a Favorable Review

- **Pre-Proposals with Data Flow Activities**
 - AQS: 22
 - FRS: 21
 - NEI: 17
 - RCRAInfo: 12
 - SDWIS: 20
 - TRIS: 2



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS



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AQS Status and Plans

- **Flat File:** The transfer of AQS flat files via CDX began in July 2003
- **XML Schema:** The XML schema for AQS will be available by mid-2004 for voluntary use by agencies.
- Subsequent to schema development, EPA will develop the capability to receive and process AQS XML data.
- In late 2004, EPA expects to deploy Web services that support limited real-time stakeholder queries of selected AQS data.



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FY 2004 Exchange Network Grant Program Process & Timeline

- ***Feb. 3, 2004:*** Pre-proposal deadline
- ***April 2004:*** Notification of applicants and invitations to final candidates to submit the final application package
- ***May/June 2004:*** Final application process
- ***July/August 2004:*** Expected issuance of awards by EPA



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FY 2005 Grant Program – Eligibility

- **Eligible Applicants**
 - **States and the District of Columbia and their agencies/departments**
 - **U.S. territories and their agencies/departments**
 - **Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and their agencies/departments**
 - **Tribal consortia**
- **Ineligible Applicants**
 - **State, territorial, and tribal universities**
 - **City, town, county, or regional government agencies/departments**
 - **Nonprofit organizations**



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FY 2005 Grant Program – Application Process

- **Partnerships:**
 - EPA will encourage eligible applicants to work with other organizations that can contribute to the development and use of the Exchange Network.
- **Application Deadlines:**
 - *Readiness & Implementation:* full applications will be due within the initial 75-day application period.
 - *Challenge:* initial proposals will be due within the first 75-day application period; full applications for favorably reviewed initial proposals will be due within a subsequent 45-day application period.



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FY 2005 Grant Program – Ideas to Consider

Ideas to consider for the FY 2005 guidance:

- **Allow more non-regulatory data flows (e.g., lead in paint, pollution prevention, mining wastes)**
- **Provide funding for data standards development, as part of XML schema development**
- **Offer Readiness Grants to territories and tribes, but not to states**
- **Require Challenge Grant lead states to participate in a Network Steering Board-sponsored workgroup or Integrated Project Team**



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FY 2005 Grant Program – Next Steps

- **Consult with EPA programs/regions about Exchange Network data flows**
- **Invite input from states, territories, tribes**
- **Publish solicitation notice in the *Federal Register* – Oct. 2004**
- **Initial application deadline – 75 days after the FR notice is published**



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Your Regional Project Officer

